

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, AS, US

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON US ASW SONAR SYSTEM

1. THE NATIONAL TIMES OF SEPT 9 CARRIES AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "BARRIER REEF BASE--KEY TO US SUB ATTACKS" WRITTEN UNDER A LONDON BY-LINE BY ROBERT MILLIKEN. THE ARTICLE IS BASED PRIMARILY UPON INTERVIEW WITH A BRITISH SCIENTIST, MR. FAROOQ HUSSAIN OF KINGS COLLEGE, LONDON. HUSSAIN IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS A CO-AUTHOR OF A REPORT ON UK DEFENSE POLICY SOON TO BE PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN SCIENCE.

2. THE ARTICLE MAKES TWO POINTS OF INTEREST:

(A) THAT "US SONAR BASES" NEAR AUSTRALIA'S GREAT BARRIER REEF AND OFF THE COAST OF NEW ZEALAND WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1971 TO AID IN DETECTION OF SOVIET SUBMARINE ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN AREAS; AND

(B) THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS IN PROCESS OF DUPLICATING AMERICAN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A SONAR "ARC LINE" TO DETECT AMERICAN SUBMARINE PASSAGE IN OTHERS PARTS OF

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THE WORLD. IN THIS CONNECTION THE ARTICLE STATES THAT

A SONAR ARC HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE U.S. ACROSS THE NORTH ATLANTIC FROM NORWAY THROUGH THE SHETLAND ISLANDS AND TO ICELAND AND GREENLAND.

THE IMPLICATION OF THESE TWO POINTS ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE IS THAT THE SOVIET PLAN TO "CATCH UP" WITH THE U.S. IN ESTABLISHING SONAR ARCS AROUND THE WORLD CAN ONLY LEAD TO "ANOTHER ESCALATION OF STRATEGIC SUBMARINE AND MISSILE PROGRAMS." IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE AUSTRALIAN NAVY IS INVOLVED IN PROVIDING OCEANOGRAPHIC INFORMATION TO THE U.S. FOR USE AT A SONAR BASE ESTABLISHED AT DIEGO GARCIA IN EXCHANGE FOR U.S. INFORMATION ON THE LOCATION OF SOVIET SUBMARINES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

3. COMMENT: THE INFORMATION GIVEN ABOVE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CUT FROM WHOLE CLOTH AND WE WONDER ABOUT THE CREDENTIALS OF HUSSAIN. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON MR. HUSSAIN IN ORDER TO PUT THE NATIONAL TIMES ARTICLE IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE. END COMMENT.

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